

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

2005

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American Indians have inhabited North America for at least 12,000 years, and have shared their knowledge of the land and its resources since their initial contact with the first European settlers who landed on our shores; and

WHEREAS, since the arrival of the first Europeans to North America, American Indians have witnessed and persevered the transformation of the continent -- forever changing their lifestyles, as well as that of the global community; and

WHEREAS, American Indian culture and society are at the roots of agricultural development, medicinal discoveries, environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions and structure, and many other facets of our state and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the social and economic well-being of the Tar Heel State has been and continues to be impacted by the rich resources and cultural contributions of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Census, 99,551 American Indians live in North Carolina, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi and the eighth largest American Indian population in the country; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to eight American Indian tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of Saponi, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; and

WHEREAS, these tribal governments and four urban American Indian center organizations located in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Raleigh uniquely address the most critical issues confronting North Carolina American Indian citizens, such as school dropout rates higher than the general population, elevated unemployment and poverty rates, lack of safe and affordable housing, health disparities, and increasing higher education attainment levels; and

WHEREAS, through mutual honor and respect for the rich heritage of the state's American Indian tribes, we share in celebrating the beauty and cultural significance that lives and thrives in today's American Indians through their songs, dances, arts, crafts, and traditional spirituality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2005, as "**AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by the native inhabitants of North Carolina.



MICHAEL F. EASLEY



I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina this twenty-eighth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and five and of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.